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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · PLP · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO

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Gaza, Ukraine: Flashpoints for Bosses' Oil Wars

As capitalist bosses move toward a hotter and broader global war, they are slaughtering thousands of workers in Gaza and Ukraine. Energy supplies are the short-term prize. But ultimately, control of the Middle East and all of Europe hangs in the balance.

Over the 400-year history of capitalism, war has been a constant. It is also a future inevitability. It's the one way the bosses can settle their competition to dominate the world's resources and to exploit the world's workers, who create the rulers' profits.

Imperialist war will end only when the international working class destroys capitalism with a communist revolution. We must create a society run by and for our class, without bosses and profits. We must eliminate the unemployment, racism, sexism, and mass poverty generated by the profit system. That is the goal of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party.

Racist Israeli Rulers Scheme with Arab Bosses

Israel's sadistic atrocities in Gaza are attacks on all workers. They stem in part from the nation's perverse history, in particular the legacy of the Judenrat during World War II. These self-appointed Jewish "leaders" collaborated with the Nazi executioners, drawing up lists of Jews to be gassed in the concentration camps in order to save the Jewish elite. As Hannah Arendt wrote in *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, "this role of the Jewish leaders in the destruction of their own people is undoubtedly the darkest chapter of the whole dark story." The Judenrat subsequently became some of Israel's leading founders. (For more details read *Perfidy*, an exposé by Ben Hecht.)

Before and after the founding of Israel in 1948, the Israeli ruling class created a violently racist "master race" ideology directed at Arab workers among Jewish victims of the Nazi genocide. More than sixty years later, even as Israeli rulers stir anti-Arab racism among the masses, they are working hand-in-glove with the Arab bosses, especially in Egypt and oil-glutted Saudi Arabia (see box, page 2):

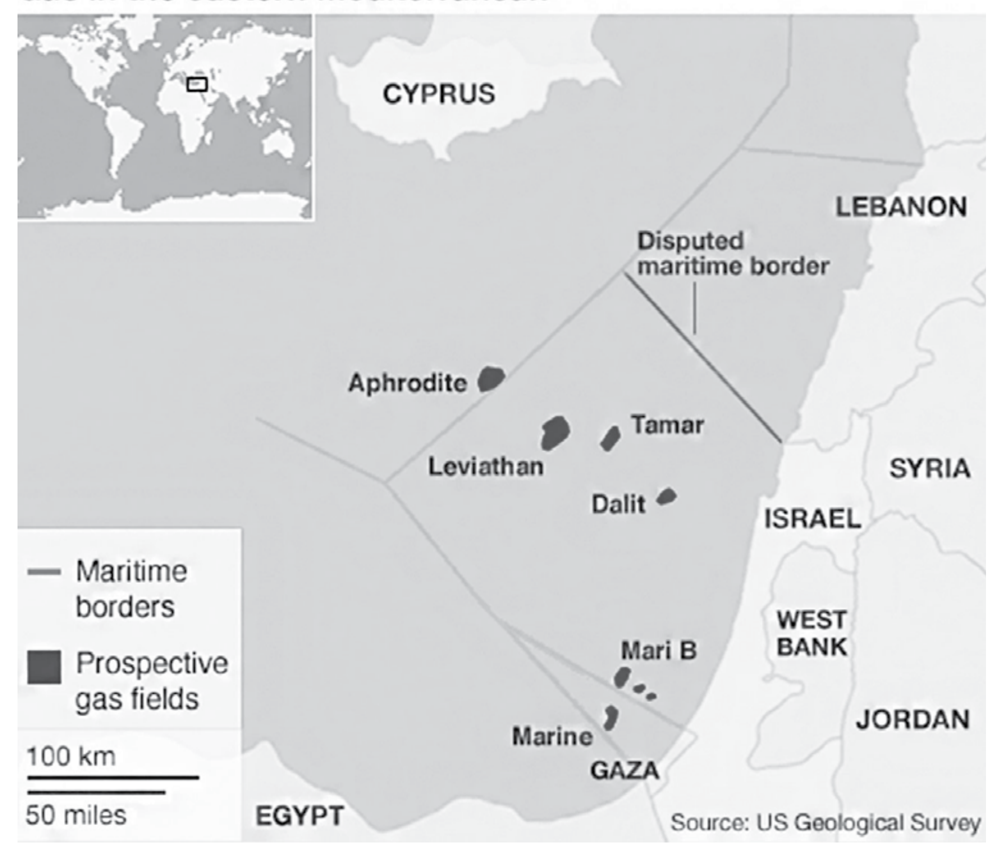
> *Former Israeli defense minister Shaul Mofaz surprised the presenter on Channel 10 [Israeli TV] by saying … that Saudi and Emirati funds should be used to rebuild Gaza after Hamas had been defanged* (Huffington Post, 7/20/14).

According to Amos Gilad, director of the Israeli defense ministry's political-military relations department, "Everything is underground, nothing is public. But our security cooperation with Egypt and the Gulf states is unique. This is the best period of security and diplomatic relations with the Arab." The Huffington Post went on to note that Israeli and Saudi intelligence officials meet regularly:

> *Why do Saudi Arabia and Israel make such comfortable bedfellows?.... They have enemies or rivals in common — Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Hamas in Gaza, and the Muslim Brotherhood. And they have common allies, too — the US and British military industrial establishments* (7/20/14).

Under capitalism, the rulers use the working class to fight their wars. At the same time, when it suits them, the capitalists will cooperate to guarantee long-range interests, much as German and U.S. bankers met in Switzerland during World War II to plot their post-war attacks on the Soviet Union.

Gas in the eastern Mediterranean



Hamas, the Other Murderous Bosses

Israeli war crimes are spurred by the imperialists' rivalry over the Middle East's hydrocarbon riches. So is the cynical stance of Hamas, which throws Arab workers into the jaws of the murderous Israeli military. All along, the group's corrupt leaders have brutalized and exploited the workers of Gaza.

After the fall of Morsi in Egypt, Hamas healed its 10-year rift with Iran, whose oil-rich ayatollahs are courted by Russia and China. While Israel continues to rake in the $3.15 billion annual U.S. military aid, its new alliance with Saudi Arabia and Egypt may well have Iran (and ISIS) as its next target. This would conflict with the U.S. policy of negotiating with Iran.

So the Gaza fight isn't really over a blockaded, impoverished strip of land that Israel has turned into an open-air Arab prison, apartheid-style. It revolves around imperialism's grand prize, the billions of barrels of oil lying beneath the Saudi peninsula. The U.S. bosses control that oil today. The China-Russia-Iran axis wants to control it tomorrow. It is also estimated that there is over $4 billion

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OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Workers Have No Stake in Imperialists' Wars

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of natural gas under Gaza, enough to supply Israel for 40 years (The Guardian, 7/9).

The liberal imperialist Brookings Institution think tank recently termed the Middle East conflict "a cold war in which Iran and Saudi Arabia play the leading roles." Though Brookings skirted mention of the imperialist super-powers, the reference to the historic U.S.-Soviet rivalry was unmistakable. Gaza is a hot side to this cold war.

Ukraine, Another Imperialist Flashpoint

When Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down on July 17 over eastern Ukraine, killing 298 innocent civilians, the imperialist tug-of-war entered a more dangerous phase. (Regardless of who was responsible, this incident closely resembles the 1988 atrocity when a U.S. aircraft carrier destroyed an Iranian civilian flight with 290 aboard.)

Kremlin-supplied separatists in eastern Ukraine are showing a deadly ruthlessness worthy of the U.S. or Israeli war machines. Both the fascist Ukrainians and separatists are riding roughshod over hundreds of thousands of workers. Increasingly lethal tactics in Ukraine reflect the conflict's rising geostrategic stakes.

A look at London-based Burisma Holdings, a little-known but highly well-connected gas company, helps explain U.S. and allied interest in Ukraine. On its website, Burisma notes that Ukraine currently gets "substantially all of its natural gas from Russia's Gazprom." The company aims to break this stranglehold: "All of Burisma's production is sold to industrial customers in Ukraine."

Burisma's oil fields are in the Dnieper-Donets region of eastern Ukraine and the Carpathian and Crimean basins, from which it hopes to double its daily 10,000 barrels of production in two years. Doing so would require U.S.-backed Ukrainian military action to oust Russia from Crimea and stop its protégés firing their missiles from Donets.

Burisma has but three directors: Aleksander Kwasniewski, Devon Archer and Hunter Biden, the son of U.S. vice president Joe Biden. Kwasniewski served as president of Poland from 1995 to 2005, when he strongly supported NATO expansion and the various anti-Russian "color revolutions" funded by liberal U.S. ruling-class figure George Soros in Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus. Much like former German Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder, recently the director of Gazprom (Russia's government-controlled natural gas giant), Kwasniewski moved from commander-in-chief to gas baron.

Biden's Son Knee-Deep in NATO Plots

One great fear for U.S. imperialists is that empire rebuilder Putin might target other pro-U.S. NATO states bordering Russia. Hunter Biden also directs or advises two finance-capital-bankrolled, war-planning think tanks, the Center for National Policy and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). On July 24, CSIS released "Responding to Putin's Plan Post-Crimea," which voiced concern that the end of the Cold War led NATO to fail to maintain conventional forces "or force deployments adequate to counter a Russian invasion."

It's in this context, according to CSIS, that Washington must strive to "send a powerful message that underscores the U.S. security commitment to NATO allies, most specifically, its commitment to extended nuclear deterrence." So far, however, Putin's conventional forces seem to be prevailing. The U.S. will need to mobilize domestically — and win a U.S. working class weary of war and opposed to a military draft — to match Russia's boots on Europe's soil. Otherwise, the U.S. bosses will be impelled to use nuclear arms to keep Russia and China at bay.

As trustee of the Heinz Family Office, Burisma's Devon Archer protects the multi-millions of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who married into the H.J. Heinz Company family. With the company's fortune strategically placed in Ukrainian gas fields, it is no wonder Kerry became so emotional in blaming the Malaysian jet shoot-down on Putin. Archer was senior adviser to Kerry's 2004 White House campaign, which included a call for national service — a backdoor move toward reinstituting a draft.

Energy spoils, territorial conquest, and the sharpening imperialist struggle are all intertwined in Ukraine. General Martin Dempsey, the top U.S. military officer, used the New York Times (7/2/14) to make a not-so-veiled reference to the move toward World War III:

You've got a Russian government that has made a conscious decision to use its military force inside another sovereign nation to achieve its objectives. They clearly are on a path to assert themselves differently not just in Eastern Europe, but Europe in the main, and towards the United States.

Internationalism Will Trump Nationalism

Workers in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Russia, U.S., and Ukraine have no stake in the bosses' dogfight for oil and world domination. No matter which rulers win, they offer us only death and exploitation. Even today, without the foundation of a communist-led mass movement, there are pockets of resistance to the capitalist rulers. Thousands of Israelis have demonstrated against the Israeli invasion of Gaza and tens of thousands protested in other countries (see page 4). Over 50 Israeli soldiers have protested the war and have refused to fight.

This resistance is why the capitalist rulers need nationalism. It's their primary weapon to divide and weaken our class and undermine our fightback. Nationalism incites workers to back different sets of bosses. It is a reactionary and deadly ideology.

In Israel-Palestine, they erect a phony dispute: One state or two? No matter which side wins, both workers in Israel and Palestine will be exploited by capitalism. Only a communist revolution can resolve this question. Under communism there will be only one state, the workers' state. The bosses' nationalism will be crushed by workers' internationalism. Workers' only loyalty will be to our class. We will send the hellish capitalist system and its ruling class to the dustbin of history.✪

Israel-Saudi-Egypt Plot

The war on Gaza is being planned and orchestrated by Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, according to a July 27 report by DEBKA Weekly, a website linked to Israeli military intelligence.

According to DEBKA, the three-way cooperation has set up the following guidelines for the operation in Gaza:

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) will fight to smash Hamas' military might and downgrade its political influence.

The military operation will end only when all its objectives are achieved.

No outside party, including the U.S., will be allowed to interfere in the direction of the war.

The oil-rich Saudi kingdom will cover a portion of the war costs incurred by Israel.

When the war is over, Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf emirates, led by the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, will pay for repairing the war's damage in the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel are of the same mind about the absolute necessity to dismantle Hamas' military strength, including its arsenal of rockets and network of assault bunkers.

Once the IDF has destroyed Hamas as a power, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the puppet Palestinian Authority will install a new government and security mechanisms in Gaza City.

"Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, Egyptian President Fatah Al-Sisi and Netanyahu... [are] in constant communication on the war's progress and [confer] on its next steps," the newsletter said.

DEBKA said the three nations' leaders went to great lengths to keep their alliance undiscovered "given the political and religious sensitivities of their relationship." Fearful of having even secure lines intercepted, they prefer to send secret missions for visits to discuss the ongoing conflict.

"Israel keeps a special plane parked at Cairo's military airport ready to lift off whenever top-secret messages between Sisi and Netanyahu need to be delivered by hand. The distance between Cairo and Tel Aviv is covered in less than an hour and a half," DEBKA explained.

Since the beginning of the Israeli operation dubbed "Protective Edge," Israel has killed 1,300 Palestinians (and counting) and wounded over 6,200, mostly women, children and elderly, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Israeli sources said that the operation has resulted in the killing of 48 Israeli soldiers and three civilians.

PL Summer Project Emboldens Fight for Migrant Youth

LOS ANGELES, July 25 — "Death, Death, Death to the Racists! Power, Power, Power to the Workers!" Progressive Labor Party took this chant to the streets of Murrieta on July 13, inspiring workers to stand up for migrant youth. The marches against racism were the acme of this year's Summer Project here. Anti-immigrant racism became the focal point of our fightback. PLP has been strengthened in numbers and quality, particularly in the area of young leadership.

Every year, members and friends of PLP come from different parts of the world to fight collectively in one particular area by connecting struggles, developing young leadership and growing our organization. We marched, distributed CHALLENGE and leaflets, met workers, studied political theory and got to know each other. This year's Summer Project was inspiring as we marched against racism, especially anti-immigrant racism, and for multiracial unity of the working class to make a revolution for communism.

Take to the Streets

PLP raised red flags and led an impassioned group of 60 workers and students down a main street in Murrieta to show the workers there that they needn't be afraid to fight the racist thugs camped out in front of the immigration detention centers. This town has been a flashpoint for racist hatred against the 57,000 migrant youth fleeing capitalist-driven violence in Central America. Many workers took our literature and were emboldened by our presence (see CHALLENGE, 7/30).

After Murrieta, we took this fightback to the garment district of downtown Los Angeles. These workers are mainly immigrants, super-exploited and threatened with deportation as they make approximately eight cents per unit in these garment factories. Several chanted along with us, took our literature and read it immediately. Some joined our march! The proof of the pudding is in the eating; PLP's idea for international solidarity is proven true again and again. As one of the participants expressed, it "was like coming home." Contacts were made. One young worker and student came to our closing barbecue the following day.

The Summer Project also centered on the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention held here. Teachers inside the convention openly opposed the racist nationwide Common Core curriculum and re-segregation of the schools, as well as the liberal union leaders who attempted to win the convention to supporting U.S. imperialism in the Ukraine (see CHALLENGE, 7/30). PLP rallied inside the halls of the convention. We connected the attacks on students in the U.S. to the attacks on immigrant children. Our multilingual chants drew several teachers. We also won a contingent to march in Murrieta with us.

Every Recruit a Victory for the Working Class

Throughout the week, CHALLENGE sales were conducted at transit barns, the airport, garment centers, a county hospital and a high school. We distributed over 2,500 papers and thousands of leaflets. Multiple contacts were made through the sales that we will follow up on. At our closing barbecue, many expressed how inspired they were by our fightbacks against anti-immigrant racism and the strong leadership shown by young people throughout the Project. Six students and one parent joined the PLP. Every one of them is a victory for our class!



Protest of 50 PL'ers and friends in the garment district.

Looking forward, we are energized and more committed to building PLP in our schools, on the campuses, and on the job. We will focus on connecting the struggles of black youth and Latin youth as one. The attack on mainly Latin workers in the form of mass deportations and checkpoints parallels the attack on mainly black workers in the form of mass incarceration and police terror. These are attacks on all working people and we must fight them together as a united class! We also aim to get more involved in mass organizations, particularly those working with immigrant youth. We in Los Angeles thank the international Progressive Labor Party for your leadership, support, and continued struggle. We have a world to win, and this Summer Project reminded us that when we have the support of the masses, we WILL win!✪

Beat Back Bosses' Attack, Need to Smash Entire System

PHILADELPHIA, June 30 — This afternoon about 175 retired and working Local 1199C union hospital workers gathered at the union hall to see if the Jefferson Hospital bosses would retreat on taking health benefits from retirees and part-time workers. Over 50 retirees were called to the union hall at the last minute and hoped to confront the Jefferson negotiators. The negotiators never came, and to our cheers, the announcement came that Jefferson had backed down and an agreement had been reached! As the hospital day-shifts ended in waves, the hall filled with a mixture of working and retired union members full of anger, determination, solidarity and comradeship.

Warning: The Working Class Has Determined That Racism, Sexism, and Capitalism are Dangerous to Your Health.

EARLY DEATH

U.S. INC

HARMFUL & FATAL

Capitalism

100% PURE EXPLOITATION

While celebrating this victory, CHALLENGE readers and friends of PLP should turn to the wise words of the 1970s-era Scottish funk band AWB: "Got work to do, got so much work, yeah yeah." Storm clouds are still gathering on the horizon, both for Jefferson Hospital retirees and workers everywhere.

The union mis-leadership and liberal Democrats often portray attacks like the ones at Jefferson as disconnected from similar attacks happening across town or in other cities, let alone happening to workers worldwide. Workers are saturated with the lies spread by these vipers, which can take their toll and spread cynicism on the most battle-hardened among the Jefferson Hospital workers. "Here we go again," was one retiree's observation when a group of 1199C retirees invaded a hospital administration office in May. She referred to the 40-50 years of history that her and her fellow union members created by proudly fighting first to unionize, and then to win the benefits that we're now desperately trying to keep.

In reality, attacks like the ones on retirees here are being waged against workers in many forms all across the U.S. Such attacks are necessary for the U.S. ruling class to discipline the workers as the bosses prepare for potential wars with their Chinese and Russian capitalist rivals.

The Progressive Labor Party fights to get us off this losing "Merry-Go-Round" of fighting tooth-and-nail for reforms which the bosses can just take back later, but to end ALL wars for profit by destroying the profit system itself.

The fight at Jefferson Hospital is one hot spot in the class war between the capitalists and workers. Under capitalism, workers are exploited for profit, and every organ of the capitalist state serves the bosses to help maintain this status quo. We are limited to fighting by laws, courts and legal decisions made by these bosses. Now and again, workers succeed in organizing and winning reforms. However, as long as capitalism exists, we stand to lose the victories it took us decades to win, amidst growing racism, sexism and eventually world war.

PLP stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the workers and retirees of Jefferson Hospital. We believe that an injury to one is an injury to all! Through CHALLENGE networks and new readers gained from this struggle we are building an international, multi-racial movement, a class war to overthrow capitalism once and for all with communist revolution. The more readers of CHALLENGE who see the bigger picture, the sooner we can become a real game changer in the battles that loom ahead.

The power and spirit we could bring to a fight for this bigger picture was present all day among these union members. PLP fights to direct this energy to the battles ahead. We have two years to build for our contract fight and we can be sure the bosses and union hacks will demand more cutbacks. In the short- and medium-term, we have the tremendous task of using CHALLENGE to raise political awareness and build study groups to understand our fight in the global context of coming imperialist war. When the Jefferson bosses refuse to back down next time we can be strong enough to march four blocks from the union hall to the hospital and shut it down.

Win or lose the next contract battle with the bosses, through building workers' power among the rank-and-file and building on the power and spirit felt in that hall today, our struggle over the next two years will show even more workers that fighting back is possible and that a communist world — a world run by the working class — can be won.✪

From New York City to Tel Aviv: Blast Israeli Genocide in Gaza

NEW YORK CITY, July 25 — "IDF, USA; How many kids did you kill today?" "No more occupation! Working people have no nation!"

These were the anti-racist, pro-working class chants led by members of Progressive Labor Party and friends at rallies on successive days at Foley Square and Times Square against the attacks on workers of Gaza by the fascist Zionist ruling class of Israel. These chants presented a sharp contrast to the pacifist and nationalist chants of the rallies' leaders.

Gaza contains 1.8 million people, the great majority of them refugees, from other parts of Palestine/Israel, packed into an area of 140 square miles. It is often referred to as the world's largest open-air prison. The Israeli massacres there have become so blatant that workers and students around the world are taking action against it.

Yesterday's rally was led by Adalah and other groups pushing BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction) as the way to stop the fascist attacks and occupation in Gaza and the West Bank. But in pointing to South Africa (which got 80 percent of its arms from Israel) as an "example of the power of pacifism and BDS," they ignored two crucial points.

First, the struggle in South Africa was not primarily pacifist. Workers in South Africa fought back, often with armed violence; they did not wait for boycotts and divestment to work. Second, even with the official end of apartheid, South Africa remains a viciously racist country where black miners and other workers are murdered by police when they strike against inhuman conditions. Even if the Israel-erected wall goes down, Palestine/Israel will remain racist and fascist. Capitalism and imperialism will never be ended non-violently. Only working-class unity leading to communist revolution can bring a just world.

While the chants and speeches of ANSWER and Al Awda, the organizers of today's rally, were less pacifist, they were even more nationalist. The two main chants were "Gaza, Gaza, don't you cry, Palestine will never die!" and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" While fighting against the Israeli ruling class and those workers won to fascism is necessary, it is equally necessary to build unity among all workers in Palestine/Israel — Jewish, Arab and immigrants. Just as Jewish workers must fight back against the Zionist rulers, Arab workers must refuse to follow Hamas or other nationalist wannabe rulers. Only unity of all workers, leading to communist revolution, will create a system that serves workers' needs.

In spite of the misleadership at the rallies, most people took both CHALLENGEs and our flyer. Many agreed that only a working-class-run state could solve the problems faced by the workers of Palestine/Israel.

To have a world where workers and our children can be free of the evils of capitalism, racism, imperialism and war, we must unite to build a communist revolution. Join PLP!✪



TEL AVIV, July 12 — Hundreds of antiwar workers, including members of Progressive Labor Party, protested in Habima Square against the mass bloodshed in Gaza. This fight between bosses props up all rulers. The Israeli capitalists have united many workers behind them in nationalistic and racist fervor; the Hamas heads claim to be fighting a "resistance" war against Zionism while robbing the Gazan population blind. The bosses get rich and powerful while workers, especially those in Palestine die.

Amid this mass murder, we PL'ers came to support the demonstration against fascism and imperialist war. But the class enemy was also prepared. A large gang of fascist thugs from groups such as Kahane and LAHAVA (a racist group fighting against marriage between Jews and Arabs) also came out. They shouted racist slogans like "Death to Arabs" and beat up many demonstrators. The cops — the fascists' best friends — stood aside and let them beat up the antiwar protesters.

The following week saw even more fascist rampages inside the "Green Line." Emboldened by the nationalistic hysteria whipped up by the war, the thugs threw stones and bottles at a demonstration by Palestinians in Haifa, again with no real sanction by the cops. In Tel Aviv, they violently attacked two more demonstrations with eggs and bottles, and threatened women fighters with rape.

As communists, we will not stand back and surrender while the Israeli government murders hundreds in Gaza, and these thugs rampage in the streets. One of our comrades has joined a broad self-defense group that is training to take the fight to the fascist enemy in the streets. Racist bullies have to be beaten back, just as Zionism and Hamas need to be thrown into the dustbin of history. We must build a mass communist party to defeat capitalism and establish an international workers' communist state.✪

Zionists' 'Protective Edge':56 Years of Onslaught on Palestinians

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The "one-state" vs. "two-state" dispute is a phony capitalist concoction. The working class needs only one state — a workers' state.

organized mass demonstrations which escalated into a revenge kidnapping when young Jewish settlers set afire a 15-year-old Palestinian boy. As a token of solidarity, Palestinian organizations in Gaza, not associated with Hamas, started firing rockets on Israeli "development settlements" such as Shderot. Hamas did not want this escalation and tried to stop it. When they failed, they were forced into firing rockets in order to save face among the Palestinians as the leading organization of the struggle against Israeli occupation and siege.

For the bloodthirsty Zionist government in Jerusalem, this was "the right time" for another onslaught on the Palestinian people. The IDF air force conducted close to 2,000 missions over the 360-square kilometers of Gaza, killing over 1,300 Palestinians (and counting), including hundreds of children, demolishing nearly 1,000 houses and forcing over 100,000 people to evacuate their homes mainly, in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza strip. Meanwhile, the Israelis had two civilian victims.

The present racist Zionist leadership is worried about the demographic balance in Historic Palestine. Racist Benjamin Netanyahu & Co. do not want to see a Palestinian state based on the "two-state solution." They foil every attempt in this direction through what is termed "The Peace Process." Yet meanwhile they don't want one state (a Jewish state) where 50% of the population is Arab (the present demographic situation in Historic Palestine). So they do their best to "dilute" the Palestinian population. The Zionists know they cannot use direct expulsion ("transfer") as they did in 1948, a step that may lead to the isolation of Israel internationally. So they use other means: massive bombardment, siege and blockade of the densely populated Gaza strip (1.8 million people in 360-square kilometers, 5,000 people per 1 square kilometer), trying to impel Palestinians to "desert" and later claim "they left of their own free will," the claim they used after expelling 750,000 in 1947-48. Israel's message to the Palestinians: "If you stay here we will make your life miserable and if necessary we will kill you."

Like every regime with fascist characteristics, the Israeli bosses do not have a long-term strategy. Until 1987, Israel faced conventional armies of corrupt capitalist regimes in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Since then (the first Intifada), Israel is facing popular Palestinian resistance forces and cannot defeat them. In operation "Protective Edge" despite the massive strikes on Gaza, the Palestinians still fire around 60 homemade amateur rockets into Israel every day .



TEXAS — University of Houston students demonstrate.

Without revolutionary communist leadership, Hebrew and Arab workers are the main victims of the murderous Zionist bosses' aggression and the adventurous acts of the corrupt Hamas leadership.

The "one-state" vs. "two-state" dispute is a phony capitalist concoction. The working class needs only one state — a workers' state. Arab and Hebrew workers should build their revolutionary internationalist communist party — the Progressive Labor Party — which will provide the leadership in the struggle to smash the capitalist Zionist government and the reactionary Arab regimes in the region, destroy capitalism and establish a communist society which will create a bright future for all workers in the region, one with no exploitation and imperialist wars.✪

Eric Garner – Murdered by the KKKops!

STATEN ISLAND, NY July 19 — Youth, workers and residents here have been gathering for vigils, rallies and demonstrations to express their outrage over the July 24 racist killing of a 43-year-old black worker, Eric Garner.

Known as a "gentle giant," Eric's nickname was Nice. If you needed something and didn't have the money, he would help you. Eric sold single cigarettes to try to get by, but wasn't selling them at the time of his murder. After trying to break up a fight between two other people, he was choked to death by one cop as several others held him down. Unfortunately for the working class, this is not unusual. Unfortunately for the cops, there was indisputable evidence of this particular brutal attack. The soundtrack of Eric Garner saying, "I can't breathe" over and over can be heard on a video from the scene, recorded by an antiracist young man. The next day, a second video documented the failure of the cops or EMTs to try to help the victim for nearly seven minutes after he stopped responding.



Even so, the prosecutors, the press and the politicians are still talking about "investigating," but in essence are in cahoots to terrorize mainly black working-class men.

Broken Capitalism

Targeting minor crimes and violations is the policy of liberal New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. His reappointed police commissioner, Bill Bratton, first established a "broken windows" enforcement policy in New York in the 1990s, based on the racist theories of social scientists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling. This policy has led to record numbers of arrests in New York despite a plummeting crime rate. In reality, it is designed to break down poor and working-class people, especially black and Latin workers. The murder of Eric Garner was no accident. He was trying to fight back against police harassment; he had told lawyers at Legal Aid that he wanted to take his cases to trial.

Ramarley Graham, Kimani Gray, Shantel Davis, Kyam Livingston — all slaughtered by the cops in the past few years in New York. The local bosses "investigate," but there can be no justice for these families under capitalism. In these committees against police murders, PLP is struggling around this point. Many protesters were also receptive to CHALLENGE and our communist leaflet about the killing of Eric Garner.

The murder spree by the racist criminal injustice system has occurred amid a growing attack on the entire working class. Real unemployment in the U.S. has been growing every year, and is even more brutal in poor neighborhoods. Wages have fallen for over 40 years. Falling wages and unemployment spur these racist killings. The capitalist ruling class needs to intimidate workers into not fighting back, and uses racism to try to divide us. The real broken window is capitalism.

Cops' Crime Spree on Staten Island

While talking to people at the memorial site where Eric was killed, we heard two other stories of people severely beaten by cops in Staten Island in the last month. According to the New York Daily News, "seven of the city's top 10 most-sued officers — and 14 of the city's top 50 most-sued officers — are assigned to a Staten Island narcotics unit working in the territory of the 120th Precinct….The unit has racked up a staggering amount of lawsuits despite being the smallest narcotics bureau in the city."

Eric Garner's murder was shocking but not surprising. What else can we expect from a racist criminal injustice system in a notoriously racist preserve like Staten Island? Even electing liberal politicians won't buffer us from racist murder; elections are a passive dead end. At the same time, the capitalist class is preparing for bigger wars. To fund them, they must steal even more profits by cutting wages, jobs and benefits to workers.

Under capitalism, workers produce all of society's wealth but are ultimately expendable. The only justice for the working class will come with a communist revolution to smash capitalism once and for all.✪

Link Racist Killings to Capitalism

"I personally don't think that race was a factor in the incident involved in this tragic death" (AM News) said NYC police commissioner Bill Bratton, referring to the murder of Eric Garner, a black father and grandfather.

Racism is so intricately woven within the fabric of capitalism that the untrained eye could easily overlook its repeating patterns as merely loose stitches within the system or within flawed individuals.

The murder of Eric Garner, like the attacks on thousands of working-class black and Latin workers and youth in the U.S., is in fact racist, not only because cop Daniel Pantaleo was white (Shantel Davis's murderer was a black cop); it is racist because police are trained to target poor working-class neighborhoods, where the population is predominately black and Latin.

The ruling class uses violence to maintain control over the working class and to intimidate impoverished workers to accept their conditions. They use the police force to carry this out. Black cop, white cop all the same — racist terror is the name of the game.

Bill Bratton, whose policing philosophy isn't much different from that of former commissioner Ray Kelly, has escalated the possibility of these racist attacks. His "broken windows" policy — which claims that punishing small infractions, such as vandalism, or jumping a subway turnstile — will deter more serious crimes is ineffectual and only creates a longer thread of injustice in these low-income areas. The fact that Bratton promises to "correct" the police department's damaged relationship with these communities, while applying the "broken windows" theory, is a blatant contradiction.

Many people in our class believed that when Mayor DeBlasio was elected, he would work to put an end to police brutality because of his stance against stop-and-frisk. However, when DeBlasio selected Bratton, who is well-known for his racist policies, it showed that this mayor, like all the others, serves the interests of the ruling class: to keep the working class divided in order to maintain power. Systemic racism will continue as long as capitalism exists.

Racism means we've got to FIGHT BACK! Police murder means we've got to FIGHT BACK! Allegedly, Eric Garner sold cigarettes that were not being taxed. Somebody was losing their profits and in the rulers' minds that was reason enough for Garner to lose his life. Profits over people: that's capitalism.

To see the videos and hear this man repeatedly crying out, "I can't breathe!" to no avail, showed the callousness of the police. The same lack of compassion was shown to Kyam Livingston who called out in pain for seven hours only to die because of the lack of medical attention. And again, a few days after the murder of Eric Garner, a young man was choked and punched by a cop at a subway in Harlem as he was trying to take him into custody.

Capitalism means we've got to FIGHT BACK!

A Comrade

Persist in Fight vs. Racist Killer Cops

BROOKLYN, NY, July 21 — Outside Brooklyn Criminal Courts Building at 120 Schermerhorn Street, a mother still grieving for her daughter after a year, faced off against three court cops who told her she had to move her car away from the front of the courthouse.

"No parking," one of them said. He wore three stripes. The mother's voice, breaking but angry, said, "You killed my daughter in this building. Why aren't you examining that and not me parking my car?" Her car had a large banner of Kyam Livingston's photo surrounded by the dates of her birth and death. "Go inside and send out the captain. I'll talk to him," the mother said. The officers retreated.

No captain came out while a picket line was gathering. A few reporters from television news and newspapers showed up. No captain appeared. The chants started, "We want Justice for Kyam Livingston, Killed in a Brooklyn Cell!" The picket line grew larger as more people turned up from work. The chanting got louder and stronger. And then speeches began on a loudspeaker explaining that a racist system that can kill a black woman simply by refusing to get her medical care when she was clearly in distress for seven hours does not deserve to exist. The sounds of the picket line echoed down the street.

One-Year Memorial

This demonstration was larger and angrier than usual. Kyam's mother had brought large photos of her daughter which some of the demonstrators carried. She also handed each demonstrator a red rose to carry in memory of her daughter. Small electric candles were given to everyone to turn on in unison. Balloons were released into the gathering dark and people watched them float higher and higher. For many it was a memorable moment. One woman struggled to maintain her erect posture as she walked on the picket line. There were the young, the old, black, white, Latin, men and women united in grief and anger.

The court police almost disappeared at the militancy of the demonstration. When the struggle against the cops for allowing Kyam to die first began one year ago, the officials would not release to the family the surveillance tapes of the cell or the names of the officers involved. The struggle has forced them to reveal the names and the videos, proving what they knew to be true all along. They now want those responsible to be brought to justice for racist murder.

To ensure that the officials don't doubt that we will be back, every speaker said this is a continuing and growing struggle. The family is also demanding changes in the way those facing incarceration are handled. The committee wants to clean up the racist culture of indifference towards those waiting to be charged at Brooklyn Central Bookings and clean up the filth people have to endure while they are waiting. Anti-racist struggles like this are important for the survival of the working class in this racist, violent, and greedy system. PLP is fighting to end the system where racism rules the day and the bosses use their cops, courts, and prisons to threaten and divide workers.

The Progressive Labor Party knows that it's necessary to end capitalism to destroy racism and all of the filth this system produces. This is the beginning of another year of attempting to build the Party as the agency of change. Dare to struggle, dare to win. Join us.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

PL Summer Project Hits Obama's Racist Deportations

I am so grateful to the Party for the opportunity to have been part of the Summer Project in Los Angeles this year. It was very inspiring. I really got to see Party discipline in action. I enjoyed the study groups and gained more insight into how to engage my friends in conversations about topics such as sexism and immigration.

The study group on immigration was particularly helpful to me, especially in light of the increase in deportations under Deporter-in-Chief Obama. I shared with a friend/co-worker the point that when there is a high unemployment rate, the rulers increase the number of deportations. However, when there is a "healthy" unemployment rate ("healthy" for the bosses, that is), they're more than happy to employ undocumented workers to whom they pay menial wages for laborious tasks and long hours.

One comrade in the study group thought the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was analogous to the deportations of workers from Central America. After recruiting Chinese workers to build the Transcontinental Railroad, U.S bosses sought to deport Chinese workers and to ban Chinese immigrants once the work was completed. The bosses use and refuse workers at their convenience according to which policy will reap maximum profits.

Making these connections with history will help our friends better understand present events. The Project inspired me to become more disciplined and a better student of history so that I may become a better communist. I plan to learn more about the past so that I can act in the present for a better future.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Summer Project was a success, absolutely. Comrades came together as one big multiracial family, young and old, united and fighting for communism. The march in Murrieta and the visit to the garment center inspired us to continue our work to organize in our workplaces and communities to build the PLP. The young people inspired us to put out our best efforts and veteran comrades assisted in that leadership. We will be looking forward to more Summer Projects.



★ ★ ★ ★

The highlight of the Summer Project was our march and rally in Murrieta. The town has been the center of anti-immigrant racism for the past few weeks. As we marched into the town, the tense atmosphere of racism and fear created by the anti-immigrant fascists waned. And my own fear of being attacked by the racists also faded as I looked around at our multi-racial Party. The Progressive Labor Party is at the forefront in the struggle for unity and equality, and I am proud to be a part of it.

★ ★ ★ ★

Before the Summer Project, I was feeling pretty unmotivated politically. I forced myself to go to LA because I had confidence that it would be a stimulating experience. I could not have been more right. Seeing all these familiar faces and engaging in political conversations reminded me about why I fight for communism. I hope to continue this enthusiasm and do more work for the Party back home.

★ ★ ★ ★

I learned a lot, had a lot of questions answered, and I still have more to be answered. So, I definitely hope to do this again.

★ ★ ★ ★

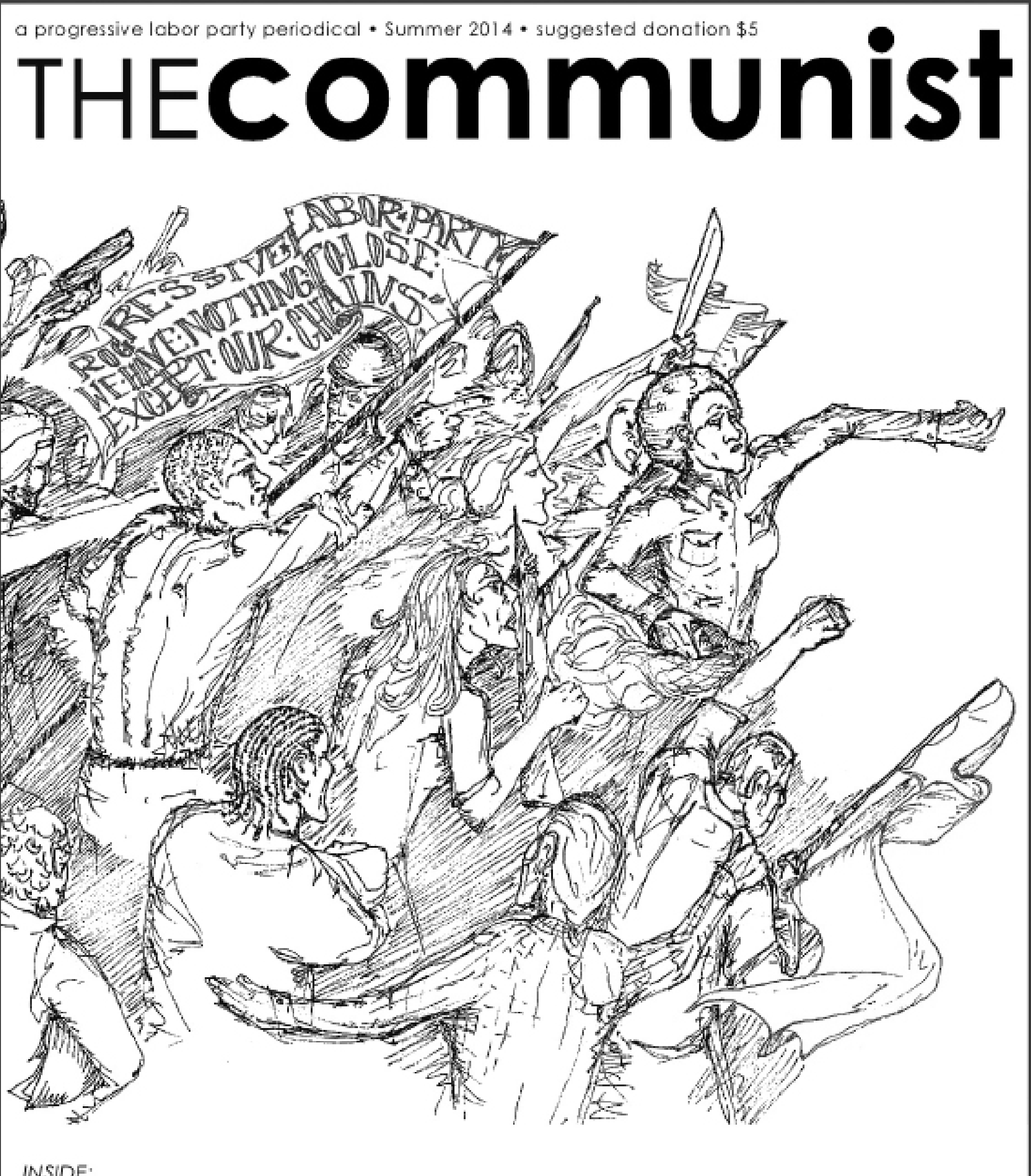
For the many years I lived here in California, I have seen many groups living in different streets. In my old hometown in South Gate, there were some black, few white people and many Latinos. But as the time went by, my family and I decided to move to Los Angeles to start a new life. Moving to LA wasn't bad at all but after seeing that there where less Latinos and a lot more white people I was like, "What"?

It turns out I found many Latin and black workers live on the "ghetto side" and I didn't understand why we couldn't unite and have the same system instead of having many Latins and blacks living in a corrupt city.

One day, as I walked in downtown LA, I saw a protest group rallying around to fight against racism. Since I want to fight racism and help one another, I decided to join the group [PLP]. After marching the whole day, I found it remarkable that it's not just one race but all races were in this protest. Many of these people are just great and work as a team.

a progressive labor party periodical • Summer 2014 • suggested donation $5

THE**communist**



INSIDE:

REFORM AND REVOLUTION ★ ZIZEK: "MARXIST" LOYALLY "OPPOSED TO CAPITALISM" ★ A CRITIQUE OF THE 9/11 TRUTH MOVEMENT ★ A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAITI ★ THE LAND OF THE FEE AND THE HOME OF THE SLAVE ★ NOTES FOR STRIKE TALK

It's out! Read the the Summer 2014 issue of *The Communist*, Progressive Labor Party's magazine. Get a copy online at plp.org, contact your local PL'er, or request a print copy at CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202

Poland: Bosses' 'Progress' Spurs Wage-cuts, Layoffs

WARSAW, July 23 — Meet Marek. He's in his late 50s and has been driving a 40-ton semi-trailer truck between Eastern and Western Europe for the past 35 years.

For decades, the two-lane R2 was the only road between Warsaw and the German border. Today, Marek drives the 454-kilometer (280-mile), four-lane divided superhighway, the A2.

"Before 2004 [when Poland joined the European Union (EU)], my work was simpler and better," says Marek. "I also earned more. Today, there isn't any border any longer, but wages have fallen. Many drivers get paid by the kilometer. Now, your income often depends on how far you get. And the number and the seriousness of the accidents have gone up." Some trucks are hurtling along at 140 km/h (88 mph). And "anyone who drives the A2 regularly sees serious accidents again and again," says Marek. "Braking a 40-ton truck is no easy thing."

Of course, the cost of training drivers for the new superhighway would have eaten into profits. And as for speeding — well, time is money.

One might think inventing a new machine or building a four-lane divided highway to replace a two-lane road would improve life. But not under capitalism. As Karl Marx commented, "The aim of the capitalistic application of machinery….is a means for producing surplus value." Profit, plain and simple.

The purpose of the A2 is to intensify the exploitation of low-paid Polish workers. In April, 2013 the average net monthly wage in Poland was $945.

The European Commission's March 2011 document "Frontier Economics" says, "Good transport connectivity is regarded as key to supporting economic activity and inward investment in the Lodz and Wielkopolska Regions….[which] have attracted significant inward investment from multi-national organizations in the food, distribution, electrical manufacturing and car manufacturing sectors" — Nestle, Unicom, Wrigley, Volkswagen and Skoda.

The A2 itself is a capitalist money-maker. Built as a public-private partnership meant the public sector (the EU and Polish government) took the risk, while private corporations rake in the profits.

The construction companies charged 2.5 billion euros ($3.45 billion) for the final section of the A2, largely coming from the European Investment Bank. The rest came from bank consortiums and private investors, who got a 40-year concession to operate the toll road.

Marek isn't the only worker whose quality of life has plunged. Today, there's a fast food restaurant (belonging to a U.S. chain) at practically every A2 rest stop. A retired worker shakes his head: "On the R2, I always stopped at one restaurant called the Las Vegas….There was always something fresh to eat. You don't get that here."

At the Las Vegas, Magda, 26, has worked a 12-hour shift at the old R2 for the past two years. "My shift begins at 7:20 a.m…. We clean the rest stop, check the stocks and of course serve the customers. However,…when the A2 opened, the number of customers fell practically overnight." The boss has laid off one-third of the workers.

On June 4, the A2 was officially named Freedom Highway by Polish president Broneslaw Pomerowski and German president Joachim Gauck. But the freedom is only for the capitalists.

So long as the profit system exists, scientific and technological progress will be used to increase the exploitation of the working class. The only realistic answer is a workers' revolution to establish communism, when progress will serve to lighten the day's toil.✪



BECAUSE CAPITALISM IS A BOSSES' SYSTEM BASED ON GREED, EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS, MISUSE OF HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES, WAR, & THE CEASELESS THIRST FOR PROFITS BY A HANDFUL OF SUPER-RICH CAPITALIST RULERS, IT WILL STUMBLE FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS, LEAVING A TRAIL OF DEATH + MISERY IN ITS WAKE…

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Israeli rulers lied in order to kill Palestinians

Jewish Voice for Peace, 7/12 — My Name is Eran Efrati. I am Jewish, a veteran of the Israeli Defense Forces….

What I've seen in Israel…is beyond anything I have witnessed in my life.

I've seen terrified Palestinian children…sitting on the ruins of their homes. I've seen mobs in the streets chanting "death to Arabs" and pulling Palestinian men from their stores to beat them as other Israelis stood idly by. I've seen soldiers lined up at the Gaza border, ready…to invade. I've seen the climbing death toll in Gaza, over 100 dead and some 500 injured [at this date], all by Israeli missiles….

…The truth behind this latest assault…[is] as J.J. Goldberg wrote in The Forward, the Israeli government lied, and created this situation.

For weeks, the government knew that the three kidnapped teenagers were dead. But they instituted a gag order on the media, lied to Israel and the world, and falsely claimed the mass arrests and collective punishment of Palestinians was all in the hopes of finding the teenagers alive….Their chosen response was to kidnap the mind of an entire country.

From the very beginning, this has been about punishing Palestinians….The government has been willing to manipulate and use its own people for that goal.

Clinton, Inc. — Like father, like mother, like daughter: millionaires all

NYT, 7/13 — Chelsea Clinton [is] joining her parents in cashing in to help feed…Clinton, Inc….

…She is gobbling whopping paychecks not commensurate with her skills, experience or role in life….

Chelsea is making speeches that go into the foundation coffers. She is commanding…up to $75,000 per appearance….

Why, given her dabbling in management consulting, hedge-funding and coattail-riding, is an hour of her time valued at an amount that most Americans her age don't make in a year?....

Chelsea was getting wildly overpaid at $600,000 annually — or about $25,000 per minute — for a nepotistic job as…correspondent for NBC News….

The lucrative family business has generated more than $100 million for the former president and first lady, whose fees range from $200,000 to $700,000 per appearance. Bill alone earned $17 million last year [for]…talking….

Rick Cohen writes in The National Philanthropy Quarterly… "Donors and institutions that are paying them…huge sums for their speeches may very well be buying recognition and face time with powerful political leaders who they hope will be able to deliver political favors in the future."

Still another capitalist industry: payday loans extort workers

NYT, 7/20 — The payday industry bills itself as a source of convenient, short-term loans, but…depends on trapping people into borrowing again and again, paying onerous fees as they go….

ACE Cash Express, one of the largest payday lenders in the country…[pushes] people who could not repay their existing loans into taking out new ones — and paying new fees….

ACE actually trains its in-house debt collectors…explicitly…to "create a sense of urgency"…in borrowers who had exhausted the money they had been lent and who lacked the ability to repay. At that point…the collectors…offer the delinquent borrowers the option of refinancing or extending the loan. Even after the borrowers said they could not afford to repay, the company pressured them into taking on more debt. Every new loan meant the borrowers paid new fees….

The company…falsely threaten[ed] to charge extra fees, harassing borrowers by phone, and sharing details of the debt with the customers' employers and relatives….

ACE's practices appear to be typical in the industry….Nearly two-thirds renewed a loan and were on the hook for fees that could put them on the road to financial ruin; three out of five payday loans were made to people whose loan fees exceeded the amount borrowed.

India: world's biggest deMOCKracy

NYT, 7/20 — MAYAI LEIKAI, India — A dozen soldiers burst through…a small home here,…dragged Thangiam Manorama into a room and began to torture her. Her older brother tried to stop them and was badly beaten. Her mother rose to defend her and was knocked unconscious….The next morning the family found her bullet-ridden body…three miles away….There was little doubt who was responsible: the soldiers made little effort to hide their faces….

A decade later no one has been…charged with a crime….Why[?] a colonial law…gives blanket immunity from prosecution in civilian courts to Indian soldiers for all crimes, including rape….[in] the world's largest democracy….

In Kashmir, there are thousands of unmarked graves in secret cemeteries created by the army and the police to hide their crimes….Nobody in India gets justice when the state murders…their family members…..

"The political leadership and judiciary have created an ecosystem where state-sponsored killing is routine and they do it with complete callousness," said Mr. Lotongbam [of Human Rights Alert]. "They don't plan it; they don't hide it; they just kill people…." [And] in fact, the murderers are usually rewarded.

Zionists' 'Protective Edge': 56-year Onslaught vs. Palestinians

The world is witnessing yet again a brutal and murderous act of aggression by Israel's Zionist government against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In the mobilized media of Israel and the pro-Zionist press abroad it's presented as an operation driven by "The concern for peace and the well-being of the population in South Israel." But is it really?

After the first Zionist expansion, beyond the borders of the partition plan (November 1947), which included the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians and the destruction of 540 Palestinian villages, known as the Nakba, the Zionist leadership of the newly born state of Israel embarked on a project which they termed as "development settlements." They built Jewish-only settlements such as Shderot, Netivot, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachy and Yerucham along the borders with Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The main aim was to erect a human shield (cannon fodder) which would protect Israel from an invasion by a "foreign" army.

In the early 1950s, Israel's ruling class used the wave of Jewish immigration from Iraq, Yemen and the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) to populate these settlements. Additionally, wealthy Jews — local and foreign, with the aid and funding of the Israeli government — built factories in these settlements, using the local population as cheap labor, thus extracting huge profits. These profit-thirsty tycoons were presented to the public as "[p]hilanthropists who supply jobs to the people in the development settlements." As world capitalism progressed and reached the level of globalization, profits declined and the "philanthropists" closed the factories, leaving behind huge unemployment. They then moved the factories to the Far East — India, China and Taiwan where labor costs are the cheapest.

There's no doubt that the inhabitants of these "development settlements" are not responsible for the present grave situation (mass unemployment and daily rocket attacks). They themselves, like the people of Gaza, are direct victims and paying the price for Zionist aggression and expansion.

Ever since the creation of Israel, all Israeli Zionist governments, "left" and right, followed the policy of conquest of Palestinian lands and expulsion of Palestinians (the indigenous population) to make the entire territory a Jewish state. This principle was set by Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, who used the term "The right time" — sitting on the fence, strengthening the IDF (Israeli armed forces), waiting for the right time, using a provocation to strike at the Palestinians, expand and at the same time get the world's imperialist powers to support the acts of aggression.

This method of expansion was first used in the 1956 Suez operation during which Israel collaborated with the British and French colonialists to conquer all of Sinai while the colonialists occupied the strategic Suez Canal. Unfortunately for the Zionists, they did not consider the interests of the then rising U.S. imperialism. They put their money on the decaying British and French colonialists. Thus the Zionist ruling class was forced to give up the gains of this futile campaign due to massive U.S. pressure.

The Zionists had to wait 11 years before once again applying "the right-time" method. In 1967, Egypt, led by the nationalist Gamal Abdul Nasser, held military drills, moving troops into the Sinai. Israel used the opportunity to attack on three fronts, demolishing the armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan in six days. In the process they conquered all of Historic Palestine, including Gaza from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan (Judea and Sumaria in Zionist terminology) and the Golan Heights from Syria.

In 1982, the Israeli ruling class repeated "the right-time" method, using an assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador to the UK in London, and invaded Lebanon, reaching and occupying Beirut. Israel, led by fascist Prime Minister Begin and fascist Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon, tried to install a "friendly" collaborating government in Lebanon headed by the pro-imperialist Bashir Jumail. Once again they gambled on the wrong horse. The murder of Jumail two days into office plus Israel's part in the massacre of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, led to Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 1983 due to pressure applied by the imperialist powers.

The current Operation "Protective Edge" is the latest act of aggression where "the right-time" policy is being used (see front page). The Israeli Zionist ruling class could not "swallow" the Palestinian unity government that included Hamas. To Jerusalem's dismay, this government was recognized and endorsed by the European Union. U.S. imperialism, stuck in the Iraq-Afghanistan quagmire, received it with silence.

From day one, the kidnapping of the three young settlers gave the Zionists the opportunity to act against Hamas. The Israeli government declared Hamas to be responsible for the kidnapping, before it had any evidence as to who the kidnappers were or to the whereabouts of the victims. It has continued this rhetoric while police officials admit Hamas was not involved.

Thus they created an atmosphere that would justify attacks on Hamas activists in the West Bank, completely unrelated to the kidnapping itself. Israeli rulers also arrested 53 ex-Hamas prisoners released in the Shalit deal (in which Israel released Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the freeing of an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, held by Hamas in 2011). In so doing, it violated the deal.

Consequently, the Palestinians in the West Bank

continued on page 4



Protest in Vienna, Austria. The two-state solution will continue to divide Jewish and Arab workers.